

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

October 24, 1996

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Conference Rooms D and E of the James Monroe Building in Richmond, Virginia, on Thursday, October 24, 1996, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President
Mr. Peter G. Decker, Jr.
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.

Mrs. Kay Coles James
Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mr. R. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Reverend Rodney Graves, Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church, Church Hill, Richmond, Virginia.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Yecke made a motion for approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 26, 1996. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton asked that Agenda Item F, First Review of the Annual Report of the Board of Education on the Status of Education in the Commonwealth, be deferred until the November Board meeting.

The motion was made by Mr. Ware, seconded by Mrs. Tuttle, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda as amended.

Highlight on Students

Under the direction of Mr. Scott Gordon, the Powhatan High School Quintet performed.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda:

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund
Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for
Placement on Waiting List
Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The motion was seconded by Mr. Decker and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Application for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation is for approval of one supplemental and three new applications in the amount of \$12,105,264.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke County	Fort Lewis Elementary	\$535,459.00
Accomack County	South Accomack Elementary	3,284,902.00
Accomack County	North Accomack Elementary	3,284,903.00
Spotsylvania County	New High School #4	5,000,000.00

	TOTAL	\$12,105,264.00
--	--------------	-----------------

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funds be released for one supplemental application in the amount of \$535,459. In addition, it is recommended that funding for one project in the amount of \$5,000,000 be deferred and the project placed on the First Priority Waiting List.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke County	Fort Lewis Elementary	\$535,459.00
	TOTAL	\$535,459.00

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Spotsylvania County	High School #4	\$5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,000,000.00

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation is for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of August 31, 1996.

Public Comment

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

Dr. Owen Bubel	Jim Murphy
Dr. William Johnson	Dr. Alan Arroyo
Vicki Messick	

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Dr. La Pointe announced that Harcourt Brace Educational Measurement was selected to develop the Standards of Learning Test and the National Norm Reference Test for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The ten day appeal period has passed and upon procurement and approval from the Attorney General's office the contract will be signed.

Mr. Decker stated that the Virginia Board of Education is the School Board for the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. Mr. Decker stated that the Board is not doing what is needed and to press forward to develop a committee to meet with the people who are concerned about the schools.

Mrs. James recommended the appointment of a subcommittee of the Board. Mrs. Easton stated that there is a subcommittee with Mr. Ware as the Chairperson.

Guest Speakers

Mrs. Tuttle introduced Dr. E. D. Hirsch, Professor of Humanities, College of Education, University of Virginia and President of Core Knowledge Foundation. Mrs. Tuttle stated that Dr. Hirsch has written several books Cultural Literacy in 1988 and The Schools We Need in 1996. Dr. Hirsch discussed the following topics: (1) what happens when you put standards in school systems; (2) what happens when you put accountability test in school systems; and (3) what happens to the disadvantaged students when high standards are put in place in school systems. Dr. Hirsch introduced Mr. Gerald Terrell, Principal of a Core Knowledge School in the Charlottesville-Albemarle School System. Mr. Terrell gave a direct, first hand insight into instituting the core knowledge concept.

Mrs. Tuttle introduced Dr. Doug Carnine, Professor, University of Oregon, College of Education. Dr. Carnine is the author of many articles from technical research journals to Education Week. He is also a researcher with National Center to Improve Tools of Educators (NCITE). Dr. Carnine has worked with educators, state boards, and legislators in an effort to bring scientific thinking into the education into the education decision-making process. Dr. Carnine discussed school accreditation and its relation to student achievement.

ACTION ITEMS

Final Review of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the 1997 Calendar

Ms. Easton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously, to approve the Board of Education meeting dates for 1997 as follows:

January 9

March 27

September 25

February 26 (Joint meeting with
Board of State Council of Higher
Education)
February 27

April 23-25
May 22
June 26
July 24

October 23
November 20

Requirement in the SOQ for Local School Board Member In-Service Training

Ms. Easton made a motion to table the Resolution on Local School Board Member In-Service Training. By a show of hands, the motion carried unanimously. So that additional responses may be received from the Virginia School Board Association, the resolution will be placed on the November agenda.

Review of Board Policy on Grade Classification Changes, Resulting from Summer Administration of the Literacy Passport Test (LPT)

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the existing policy be interpreted to allow students who take and pass the test in the summer become grade-classified prior to the second semester and that the policy take effect immediately. Mrs. Yecke seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

First Review of Recommendations for the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Mr. Ware, chairman of the subcommittee, stated that the committee has reviewed the Board's responsibilities regarding the two schools and gave the following recommendations: (1) The Department of Education should establish an internal supervisory position which will have line authority over the two superintendents at the respective schools and would report to the Director of Administration; (2) The Department of Education should require the schools to develop a policy that ensures immediate notification to the police of any incidence of suspected physical or sexual abuse at the institutions; and (3) To direct the Department of Education to analyze the residential component of these school programs to determine if there are adequate personnel and procedures in place to ensure student safety and a conducive learning environment. This analysis should include both the roles, the responsibilities and the pay grades of the employees.

Dr. La Point indicated that he spoke with the Governor's Office and they are exploring the possibility of introducing legislation to grant the VSDB schools a board of visitors to relieve the Board of Education of this responsibility. The proposed Legislation may be introduced to the General Assembly this winter.

Mr. Decker made a motion to accept the report of the first recommendations and the motion

carried unanimously.

State Special Education Advisory Committee Recommendations for Revisions to Accreditation Standards

Dr. Thomas W. D. Smith, Chairman of the State Special Education Advisory Committee stated that the committee has prepared recommendations about students with disabilities for the Board of Education to consider as part of its revision of Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia. The recommendations relate to two major elements: (1) current special education program standards, and (2) inclusion of students with disabilities in school accountability systems. Mr. Smith stated that the Committee consist of parents, consumers, teachers, administrators, school board members, advocates for students with disabilities and educators for students with disabilities. Mr. Smith introduced John Pleasants who is Vice Chairman of the State Special Education Advisory Committee and stated that he is doing an excellent job. Mr. Decker announced that he is the President of the John Pleasants Fan Club.

First Review of a Study on Alternative Pathway for Teacher Licensure for Certain Persons, HJR No. 247

Dr. Thomas Elliott gave the first review of the study on alternative license for teachers with special skills who do not have a four year college degree. Dr. La Pointe's recommendation is that the Board receive the study on Alternative Pathway for Teacher Licensure for Certain Persons for first review.

Executive Session

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board of Education go into executive session under Virginia Code ' 2.1-344.A.1, specifically to discuss personnel matters relating to licensure. Mrs. Yecke seconded the motion and the Board went into executive session at 2:15 p.m.

Ms. Easton made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Ms. Easton - Aye

Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mr. Decker - Aye
Mr. Harris -Aye
Mr. Patterson - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained because he will not submit to this requirement but gives his word that the Board did, in fact, follow procedures.

The Board reconvened in public session at 3:10 p.m.

Mr. Decker moved that Applicant #1 be referred back to the Superintendent Panel and brought back to the Board on November 18. This was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Decker made a motion to grant a license for Applicant #2 to teach in the Department of Correctional Education Adult Services only with the consent of the Superintendent of the Department of Correctional Education. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Decker made a motion to deny the issuance of a license to Applicant #3. Mrs. Yecke seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Applicant #3 did not appear before the Board regarding his petition for a license.

Mr. Decker made a motion that Applicant #4 be deferred until the November 18 Board meeting in order for the applicant to obtain further letters of recommendations. Mr. Harris seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Decker made a motion to grant a license to Applicant #5. Mr. Ware seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 3:15 p.m.

Volume 67
Page 77
October 1996

President